



Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

Top Secret

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# National Intelligence Daily

Friday  
10 February 1984

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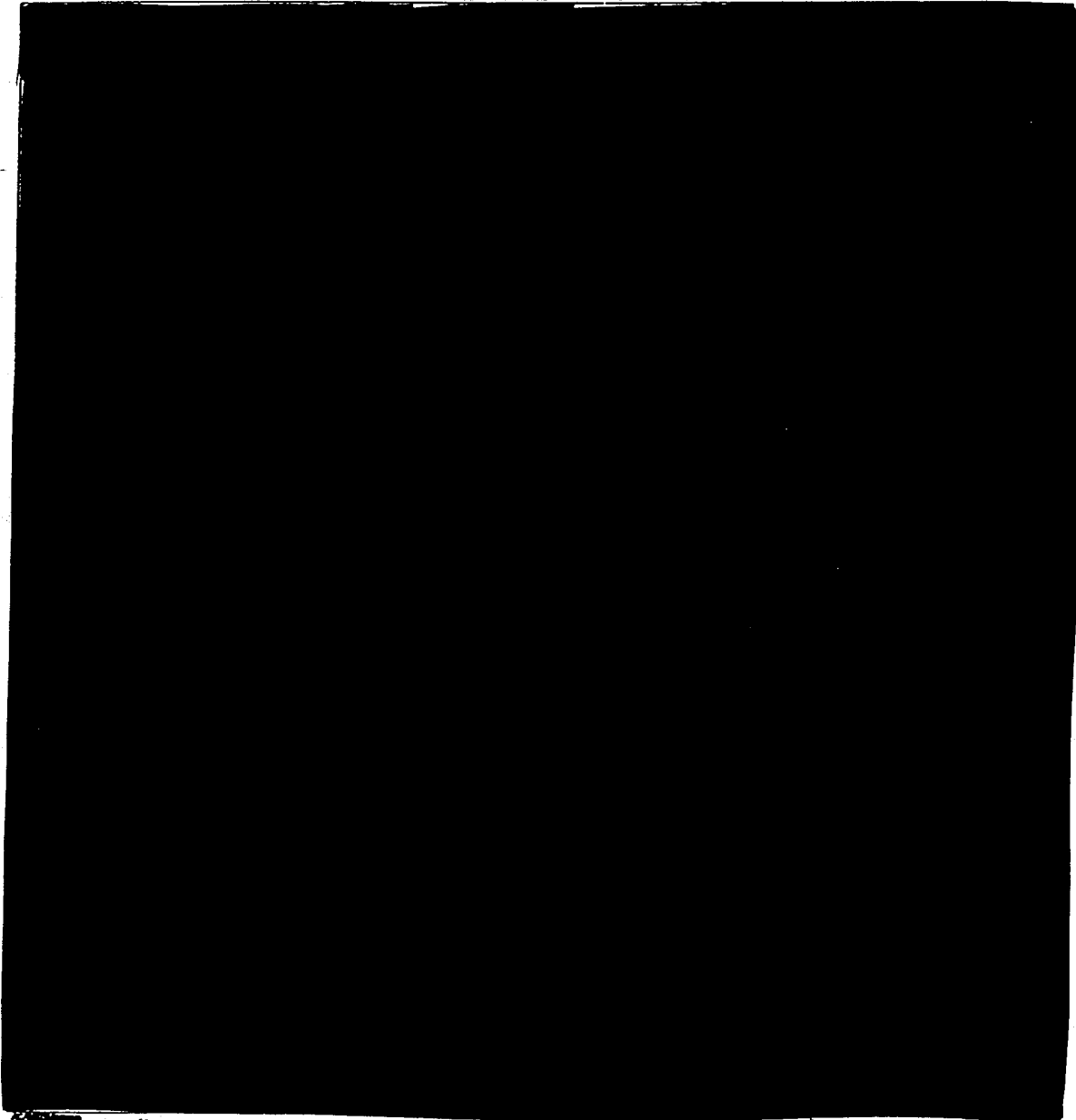
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# SYRIA-LEBANON: Pushing Political Talks

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President Assad met yesterday with National Salvation Front leaders Franjiyah, Karami, and Junblatt. Earlier this week Assad held talks with Lebanese Sunni notables. President Gemayel's representative, Jean Obeid, [REDACTED] has arrived in Damascus.

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[REDACTED]

Beirut remained calm yesterday, although there were [REDACTED] of some shelling of East Beirut and of clashes between Christian and Druze militias in the Kharrub area. [REDACTED] the Army is preparing to resist an attack it expects along the Alayh ridgeline in retaliation for the US naval bombardment of the last two days.

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[REDACTED]: Assad probably hopes a quick political deal can be arranged that meets Syrian demands and stops the fighting before Muslim gains prompt moves by the Phalange Party to set up a Christian enclave. Damascus has not called for Gemayel's resignation, and Assad appears to believe that accommodation is still possible.

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If Gemayel does not move soon to make political concessions and appoint a new prime minister, the opposition forces are likely to increase military pressure on the Christians in Beirut. They might take new action along the ridgeline, in the Kharrub, or against the Christian heartland.

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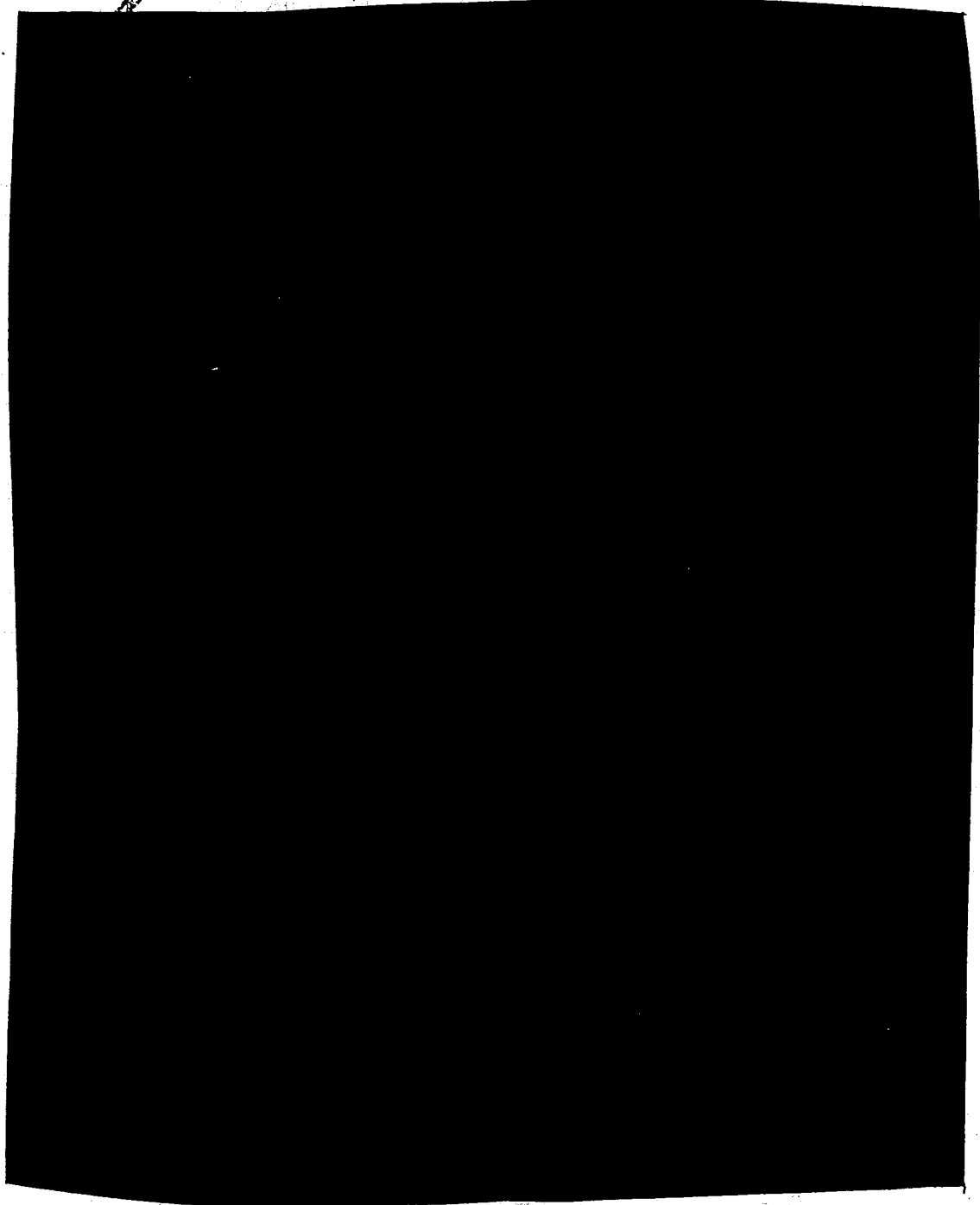
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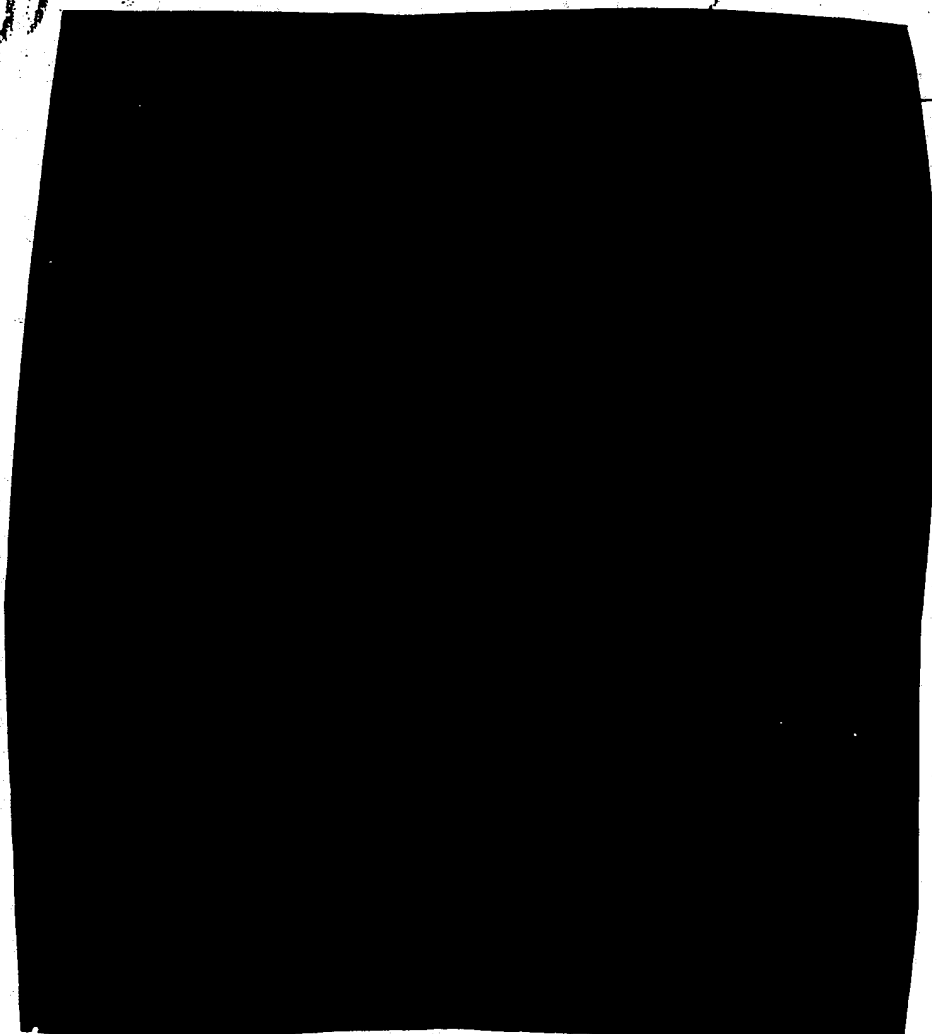
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#### KUWAIT: Trial of Terrorists

The trial of 25 people implicated in the bombings of the US Embassy and other installations in mid-December will begin tomorrow amid fears of further Iranian-backed attacks against Kuwaiti and US targets.

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Dawa, the Iranian-backed Shia dissident group that the authorities consider responsible for the bombings, has threatened additional terrorism if the suspects are not released. Most of those who are to stand trial—including 17 Iraqis, three Lebanese, and three Kuwaitis—have already admitted to being Dawa members.

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The prospect of the trial and an Iranian offensive, combined with recent murders in Paris, probably will persuade Kuwait and other Persian Gulf states to try to placate Iran. Kuwait, ~~still~~ seems determined to punish the bombing suspects, but it hopes to avoid public mention of Shia schemes or Iranian involvement.

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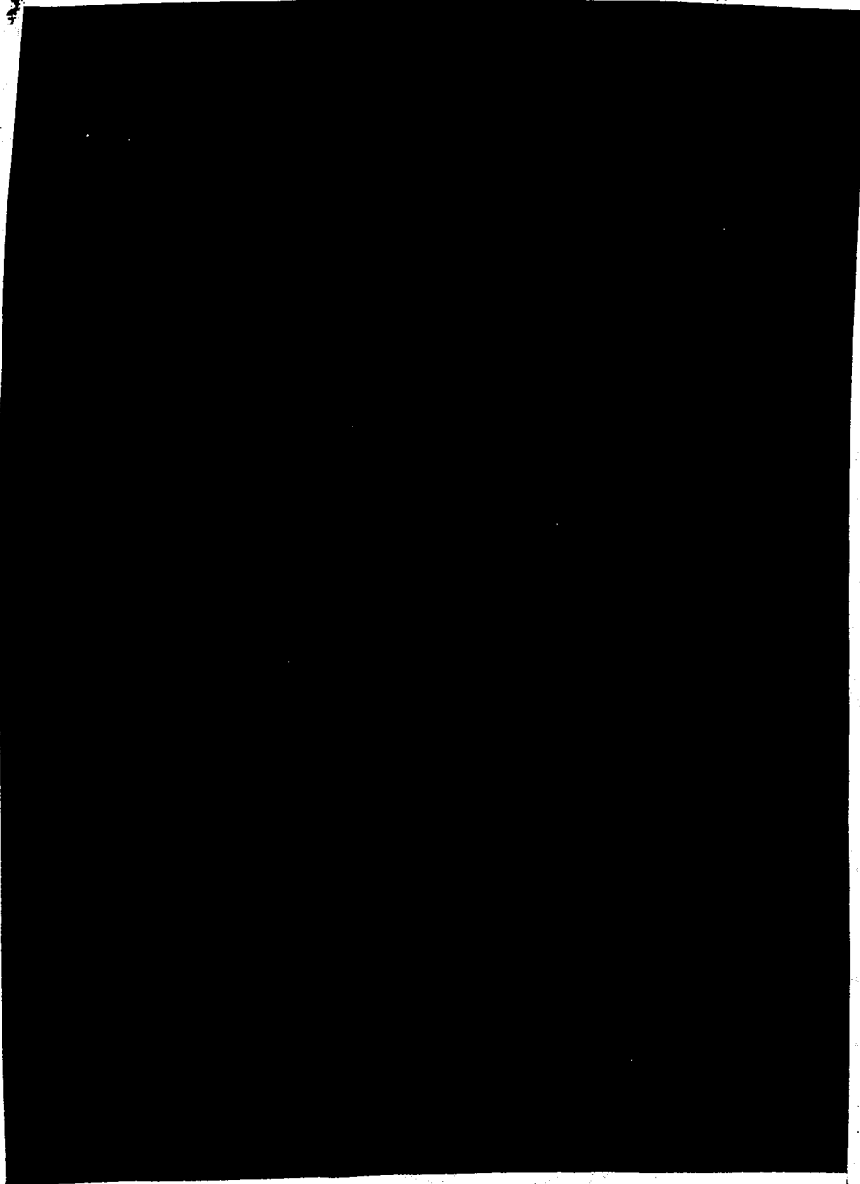
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**HUNGARY: Statements on Foreign Policy**

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Szuos said in a radio interview last month that Hungarian policies are not identical to those of the USSR, and he asserted that national interests should not be subordinated to common ones except in an "extraordinary situation." He added that the Hungarians would continue to seek East-West dialogue despite current strains in relations between the superpowers. (C)

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Szuos's remarks seem designed to portray Hungary to the West as a negotiating partner not totally controlled by Moscow. The Hungarians may believe that uncertainties in the USSR's policy caused by General Secretary Andropov's illness give them some additional leeway in foreign policy. Budapest will be hosting visits in the next few months by several Western leaders, including West German Chancellor Kohl and Italian Prime Minister Craxi, who are likely to encourage Hungarian leaders to pursue a more independent course.

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Szuos also probably was seeking to reassure the Hungarian people that heightened East-West tensions will not cause retrenchment in domestic policies or a substantial reduction in Western contacts. Hungary's liberal economic policies and its open political atmosphere are important sources of popularity and legitimacy for the regime.

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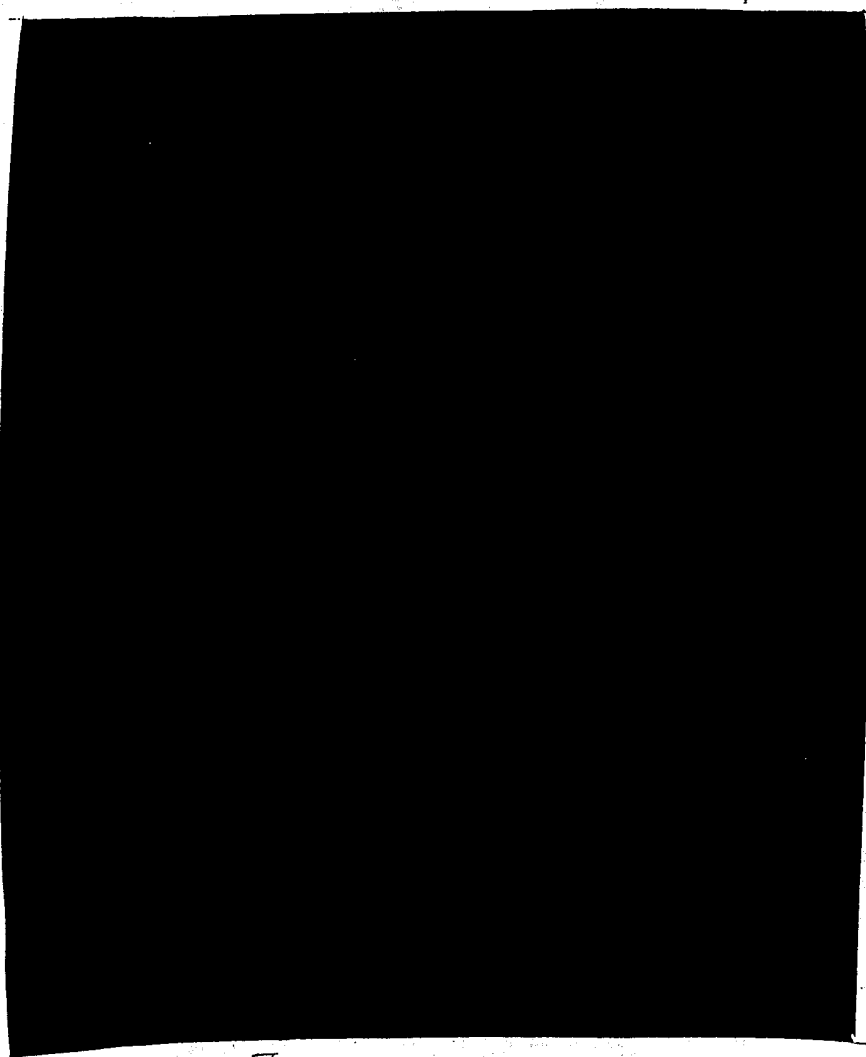
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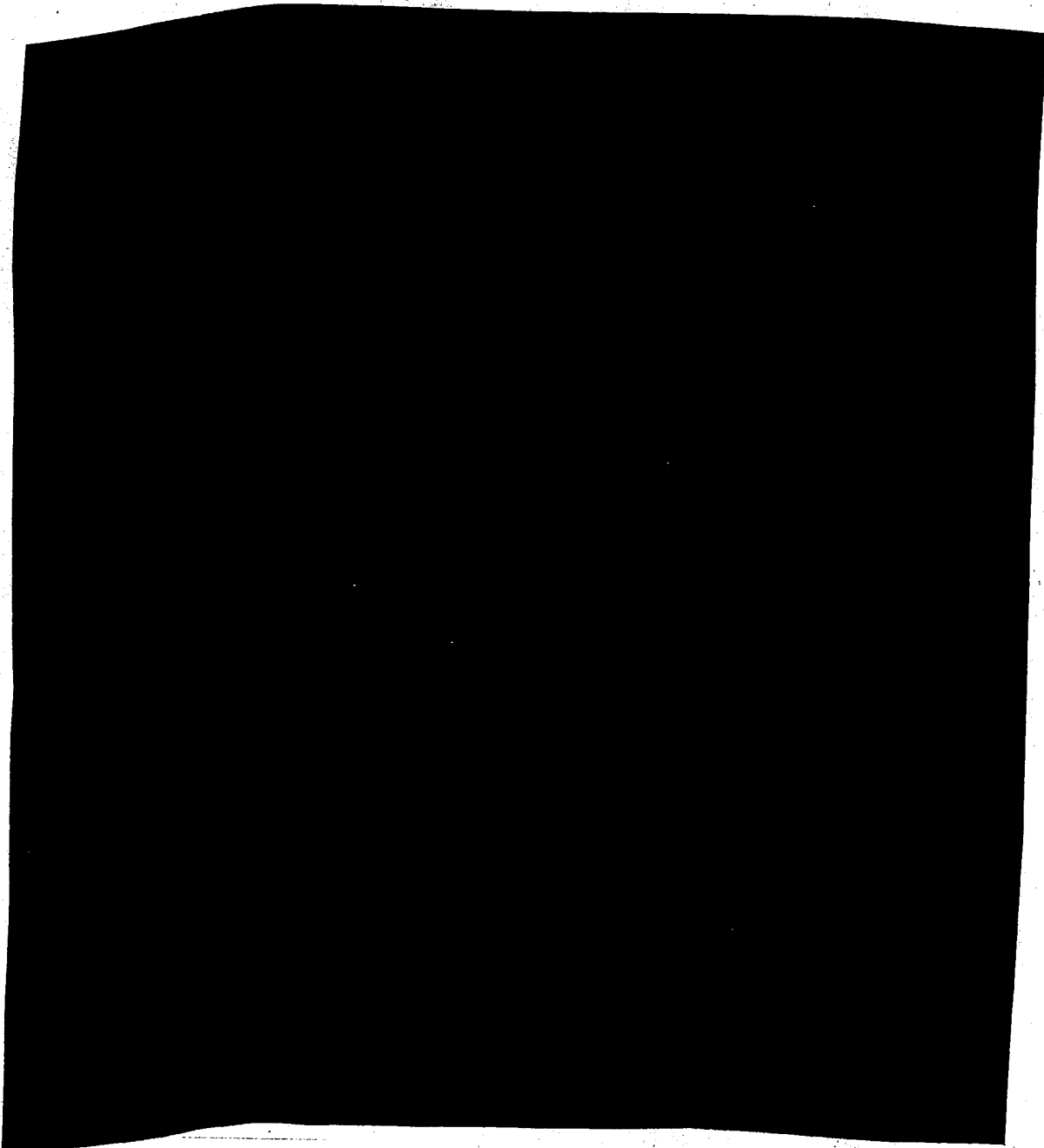
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**VIETNAM-KAMPUCHEA: Attacks on Resistance Bases**

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Although information on casualties is incomplete [REDACTED] 8 soldiers of the resistance are being treated for symptoms caused by an unidentified gas. Other press reports say that the Vietnamese also have attacked a small Democratic Kampuchean base at Chong Bok near the Lao border, but no details are available.

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The attacks appear to have only limited local objectives. Most Vietnamese forces recently have stayed away from the border, and there are no indications of imminent attacks on the large non-Communist bases south of O Bok or against Prince Sihanouk's base at Ta Tum.

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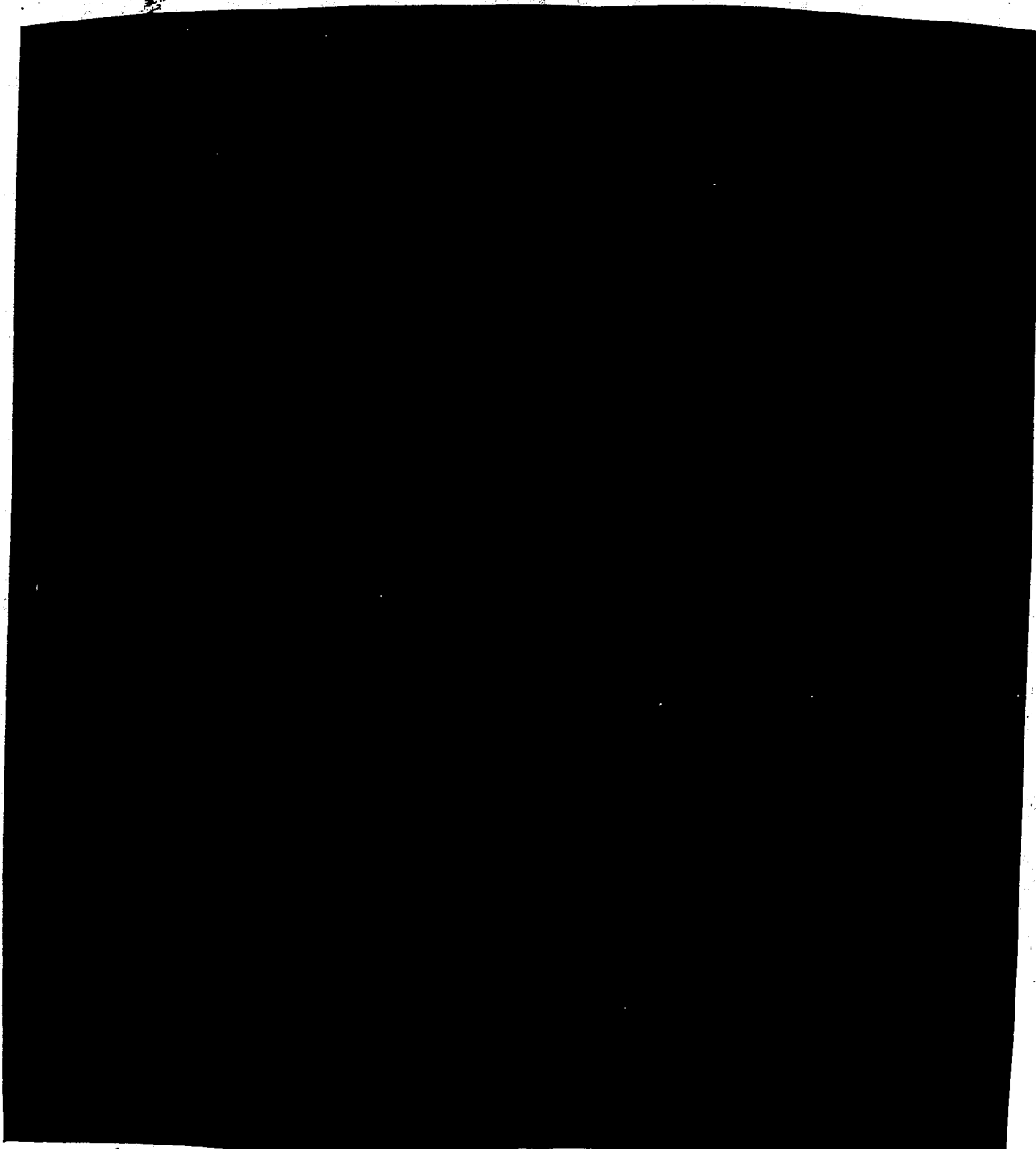
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#### USSR: Initiatives in the Consumer Sector

The summary in *Pravda* of the Politburo meeting last week states the leadership has ordered that an experiment, limited to eight small regions, be carried out in consumer service enterprises. The initiative, which is similar to one begun last month in other selected industries, is aimed at decentralizing management, increasing labor incentives, and improving overall efficiency in the consumer sector. In addition, Politburo member Vorotnikov and party secretary Kapitonov addressed high-level meetings last week on ways to improve the quality and availability of consumer goods and services. ~~these developments are in response to General Secretary Andropov's emphasis on improving consumer goods at the plenum in December.~~

~~Andropov~~ Andropov has pushed for improvements in the consumer sector since he took over as party chief, and the Politburo's decision suggests that he continues to give direction to policy. The experiment is part of the recently announced long-term program for improving consumer welfare, which emphasizes increased efficiency instead of investment to improve the sector gradually.

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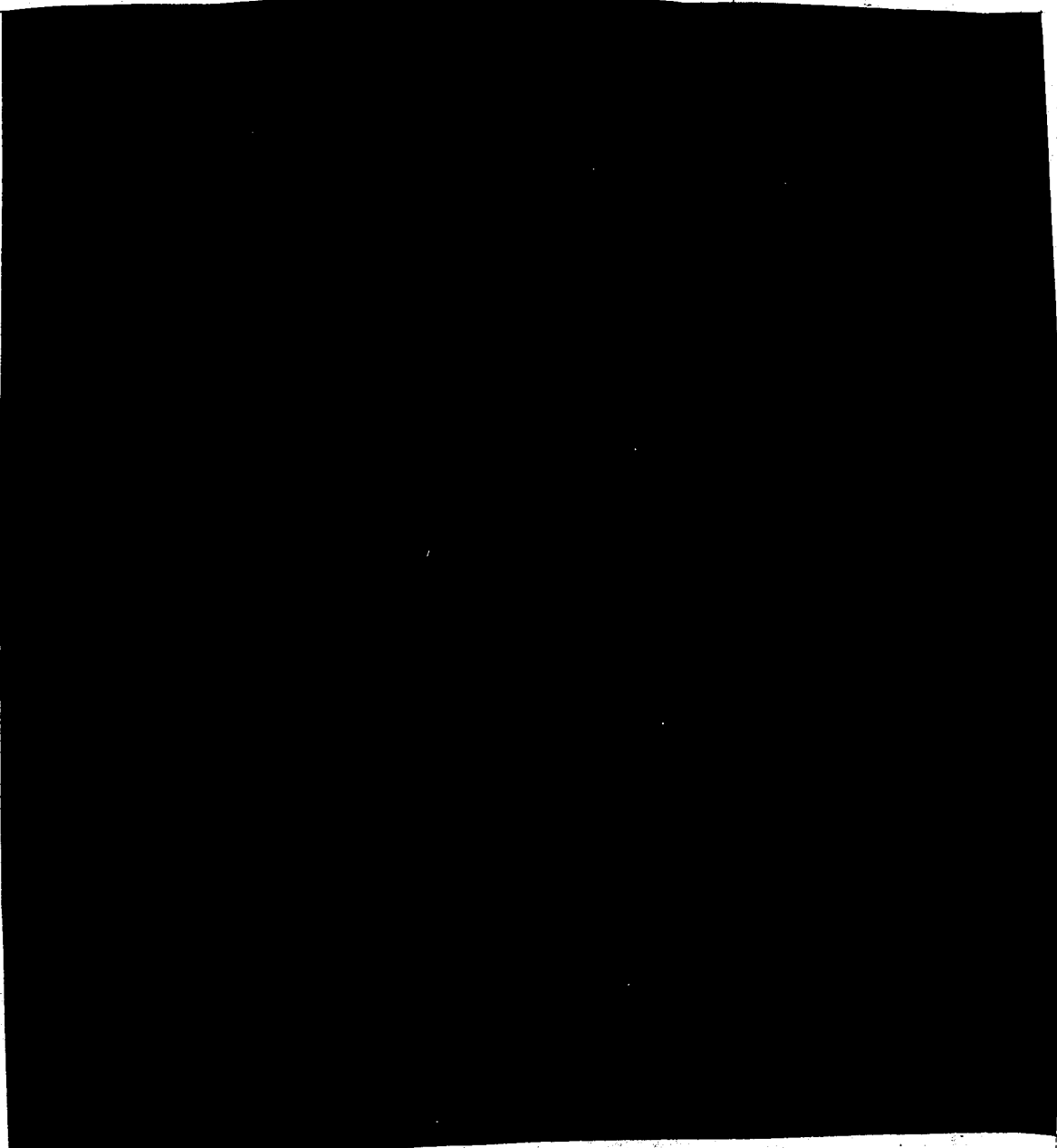


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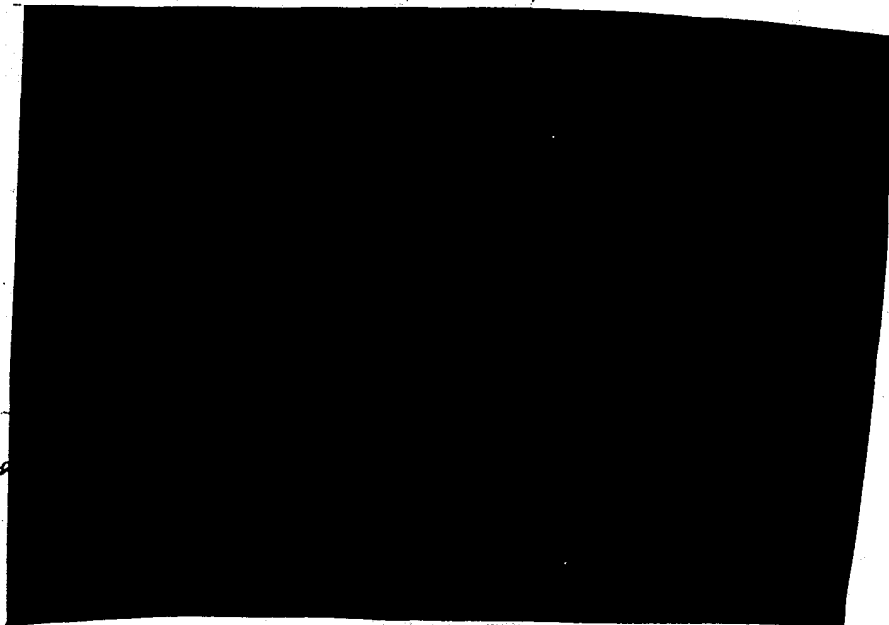
#### USSR: Setbacks for the Nuclear Industry

Recent statements by Soviet energy officials indicate there will be further delays in the commercial nuclear energy program. The Minister of Power and Electrification has complained to a Western diplomat that new safety regulations—imposed by the State Committee on Nuclear Safety—restricting the places where plants may be located will lead to higher costs, greater technical requirements, and slower growth in the nuclear power program. Soviet turbine designers recently made public a major planning mistake that could delay for some time the manufacture of a special steam turbine needed at some new types of Soviet nuclear plants, two of which are already under construction.

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**Comment:** The nuclear industry has grown steadily in recent years, but construction bottlenecks and problems with the manufacture of components have retarded progress. The new safety criteria for plant location and the difficulties producing turbines will cause more setbacks. The impact probably will be felt after 1985, when the affected plants are to enter service. It could prompt the Soviets to seek some Western components for nuclear stations or machine tools to build the components.

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## INTERNATIONAL: Terrorist Watch

### Middle East

— As US Marines are withdrawn from Beirut, the ships carrying them may appear to be attractive targets to some terrorist groups in Lebanon.

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### Europe

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Africa



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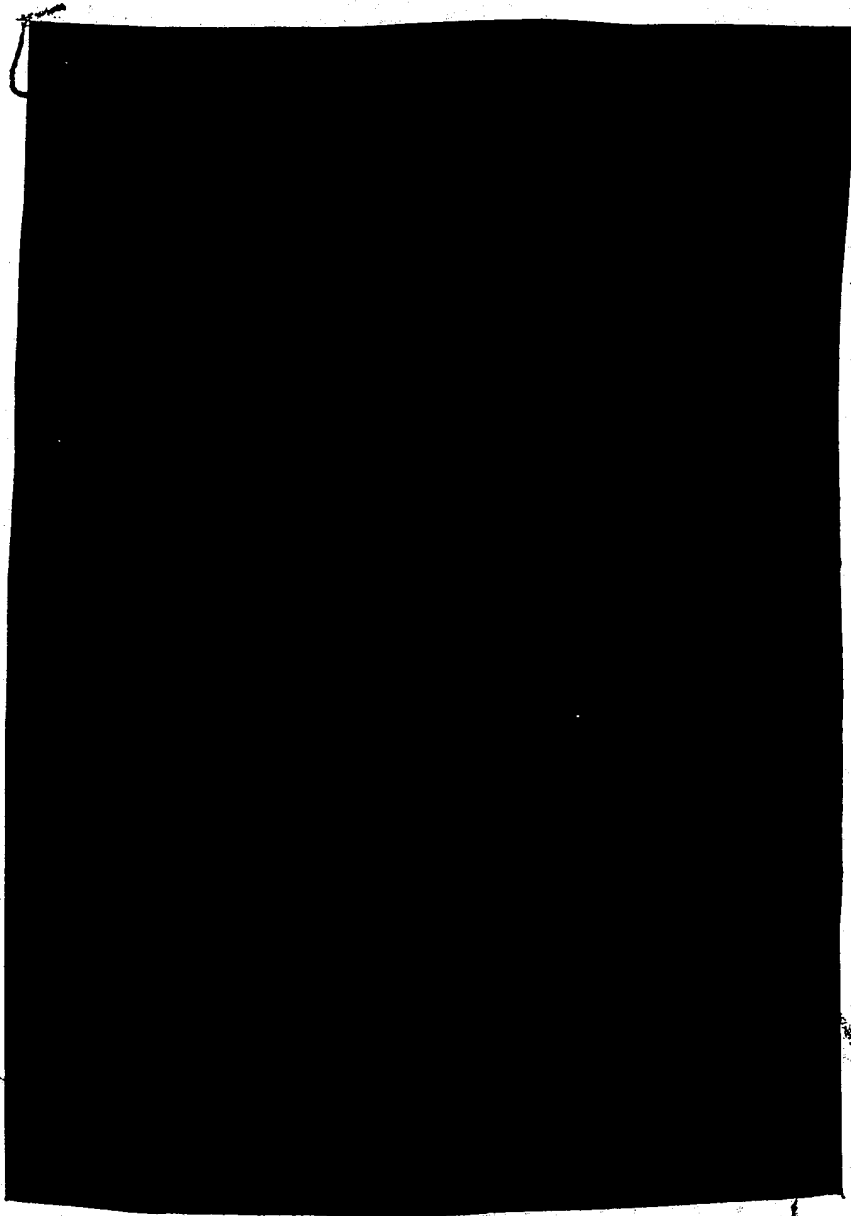
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Special Analysis



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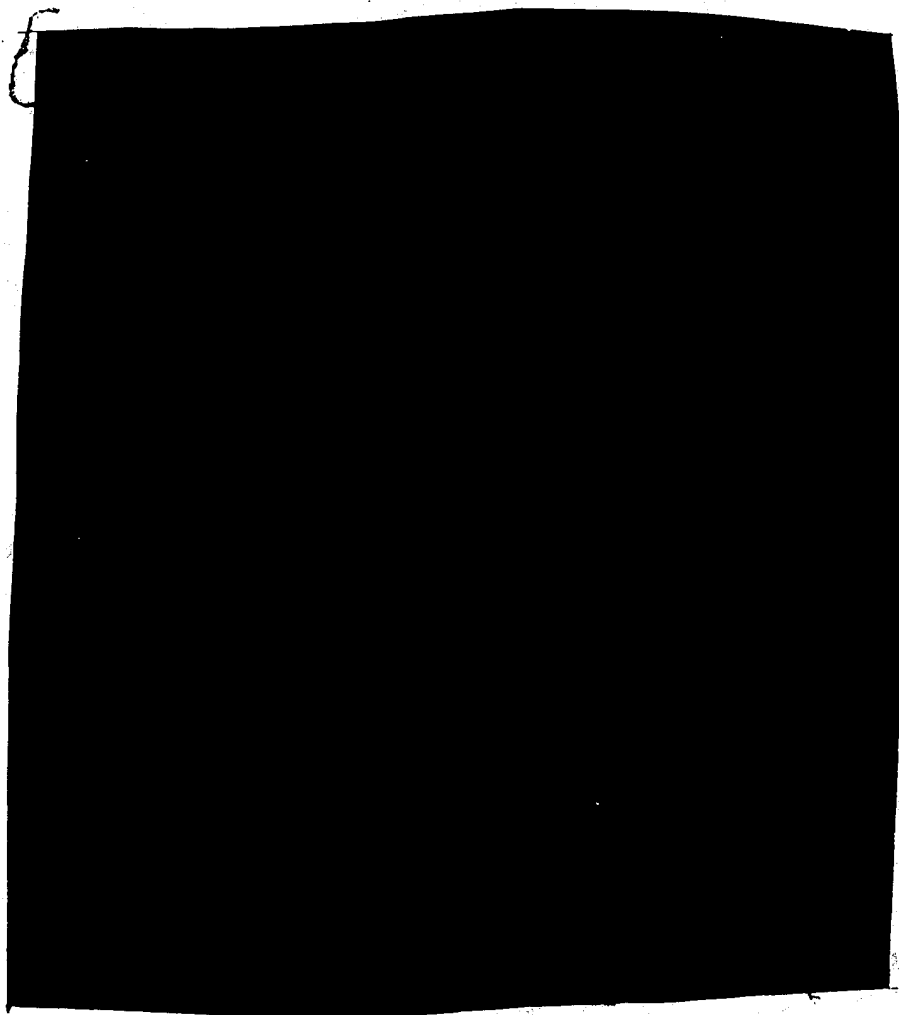
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